

VZCZCXYZ0010
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHMK #0529 2461054
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 031054Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8901
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHEVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000529

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/FO - CORBIN
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC - TALWAR, PHEE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2019
TAGS: [FAIR](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN'S GULF AIR RETURNS TO IRAQ

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

- 1.(C) Summary: Gulf Air resumed regularly scheduled service to Iraq for the first time since suspending operations there in March 2003. Gulf Air
- 2.(U) State-owned Gulf Air's first flight to Iraq since March 2003, landed at Baghdad International Airport on September 1. Aboard this inaugural
- 3.(U) Majali announced in Baghdad that this route will be the first of many to Iraq. He stated that flights to Najaf and Irbil are set to commence
- 4.(SBU) Comment: Gulf Air's new service to Iraq has been big news in Bahrain over the past several weeks and has elicited varying reactions. On
- 5.(C) Comment continued: The night before the flight, Iraq's Ambassador to Bahrain Ghassan Hussain told Ambassador Ereli that at the request of